

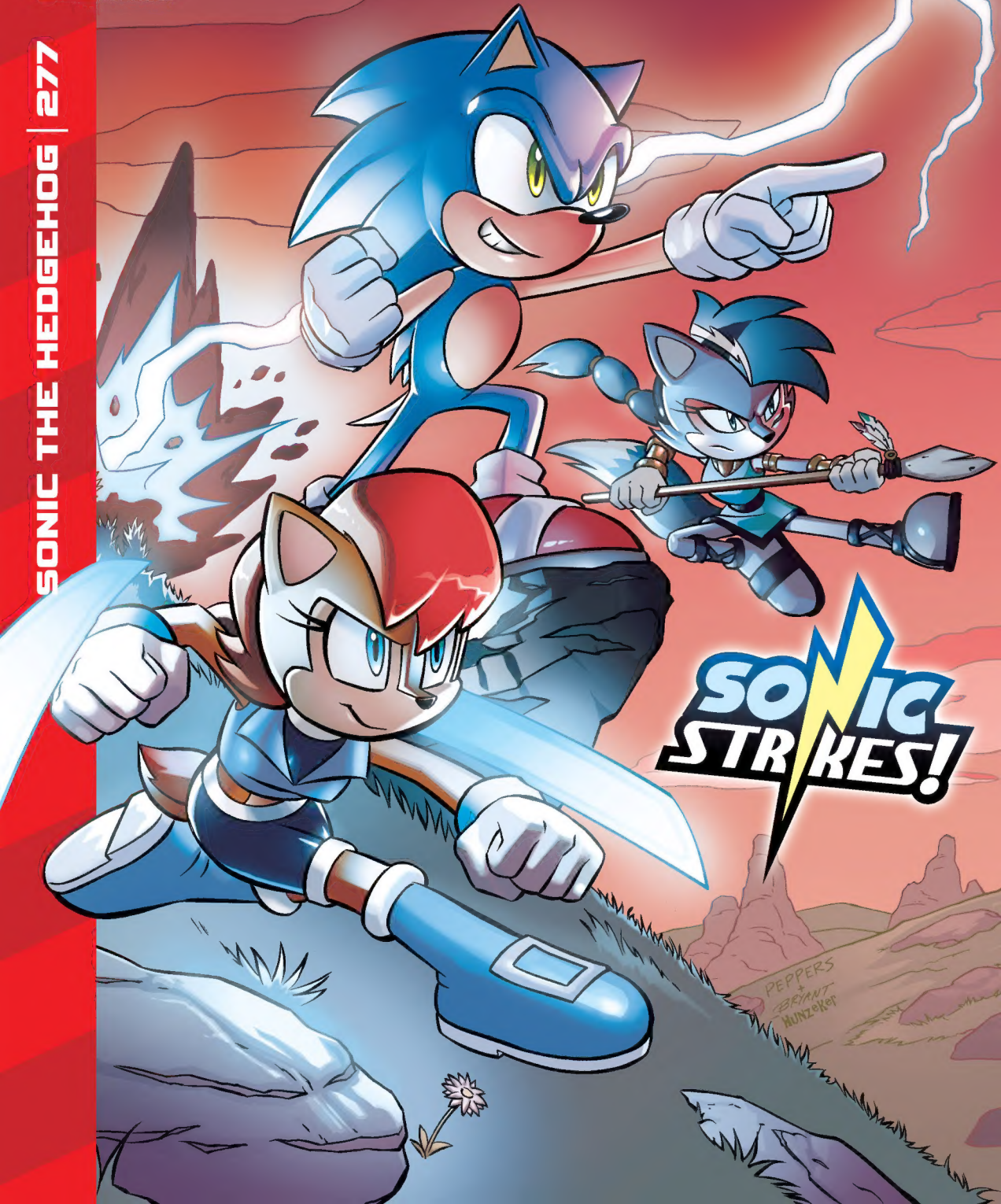
**Archie**  
**ACTION!**  
ARCHIECOMICS.COM

# SONIC™

## THE HEDGEHOG



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG | 277



**SONIC**  
**STRIKES!**

PEPPERS  
& BRYANT  
MUNZGER

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures—a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends work to save the world from the forces of evil!



CHARACTER  
= SELECT =

# SONIC™

## THE HEDGEHOG

PREVIOUSLY...



SONIC  
THE HEDGEHOG  
THE FASTEST THING ALIVE!



SALLY ACORN  
LEADER OF THE  
FREEDOM FIGHTERS!



BUNNIE  
RABBOT  
D'COLETTE  
CYBORG FREEDOM FIGHTER



LUPE  
THE WOLF  
PLAINS WARRIOR

### KEY TO THE KEYS!

Sonic and his heroic friends—the **Freedom Fighters**—are out fix the **Shattered World**! To do that, they need access to the **seven Gaia Temples** and the power of the **Chaos Emeralds**!

Sonic has learned of the seven **Gaia Keys**—special totems that will allow him to open the **Gaia Gate** and access all of the temples from one place! The Gaia Sage, **Gregorios**, has given him the names and locations of the keys' guardians! With the tracking down of the guardians underway, one other crucial element to saving the world remains: the last Chaos Emerald!

The Freedom Fighters were nearly killed in one of **Dr. Eggman's** traps, in which he used the last Emerald as bait!

Since then the gem's location has remained a mystery...



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN-10705090), No. 277, December, 2016. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100, Pelham, NY 10803-1242, Jon Goldwater, Publisher/Co-CEO, Nancy Silberkleit, Co-CEO, Mike Pellerito, President, Victor Gorelick, Co-President. Single copies \$3.99. Subscription rate: \$47.88 for 12 issues. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. ©SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA, the SEGA logo, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, SONIC UNIVERSE and SONIC BOOM™ are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA Holdings Co., Ltd. or its affiliates. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 250 East Olive Avenue, Ste 200, Burbank, CA 91502 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100, Pelham, NY 10803-1242. Printed in USA.

THUNDER PLAINS  
ZONE...

CHIP  
ANCIENT  
SPIRIT

HOW  
YOU DOING  
BACK THERE,  
LUPE?

E-118 TAU  
SUPER BADNIK

SONIC  
HEROIC  
HEDGEHOG

DO NOT  
SLOW DOWN!  
JUST GET US  
TO THE  
PLAINS!

LUPE  
WARRIOR  
WOLF

CRASH!

POW!

# THUNDER, RAIN and LIGHTNING

WRITER: IAN FLYNN • PENCILS: ADAM BRYCE THOMAS  
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN • COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA  
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN • COVER BY  
JAMAL PEPPERS, RICK BRYANT, AND BEN HUNZEKER  
BATTLE VARIANT COVER BY TYSON HESSE

SO...  
FAST...!

YOU  
COULD'VE  
STAYED ON  
THE SKY  
PATROL.

AND...  
MISS...  
ALL THE...  
EXCITE-  
MENT?!

ASSISTANT EDITOR: JONATHAN H. GRAY  
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PUBLISHER: JON GOLDWATER  
SPECIAL THANKS TO STACY ARNOLD-  
STRIDER, SANDRA JO, AND MAI KIYOTAKI  
AT SEGA LICENSING

SALLY  
TACTICIAN

THAT  
WASN'T  
THE PLAN,  
SONIC!

HEADS UP,  
SALLY-GIRL!

BUNNIE  
CYBORG

THE WOLF PACK  
LOCAL HEROES

**PUIT!**

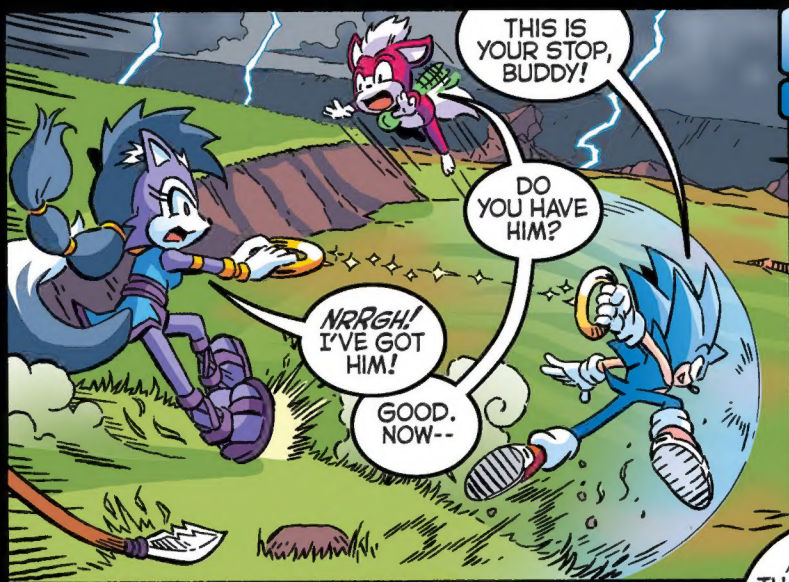
BESIDES--  
WHEN HAS  
SONIC *EVAN*  
STUCK TO  
A PLAN?

HE  
HAS!  
LIKE  
WHEN  
WE...  
UM...

**PYEW!**

...ALL  
RIGHT.  
ALMOST  
NEVER.

AND HE'S  
ALWAYS  
COME  
THROUGH,  
SO QUIT  
YER  
WORRYIN'!



THIS IS YOUR STOP, BUDDY!

DO YOU HAVE HIM?

NRRGH! I'VE GOT HIM!

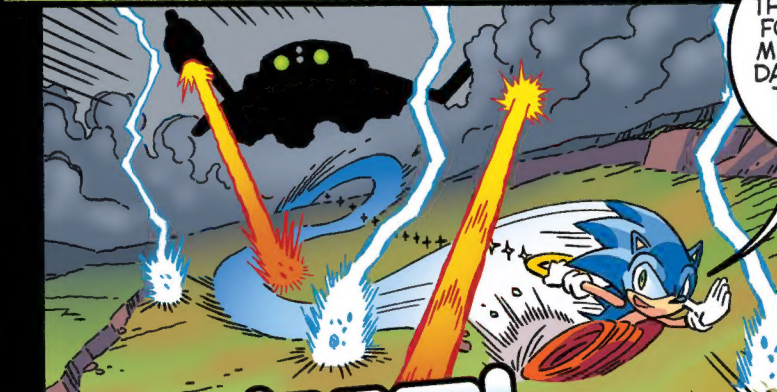
GOOD. NOW--

**SWOOSH!**

--DUCK!

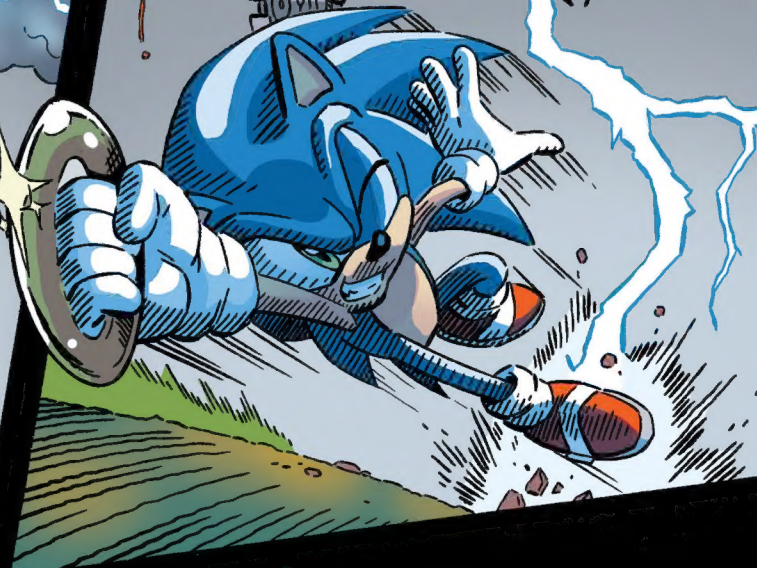
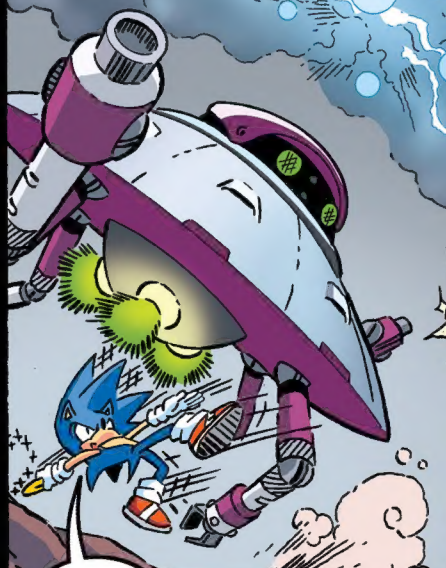


HA HA! THANKS FOR FOLLOWING ME. PRETTY DANGEROUS TERRAIN, HUH?

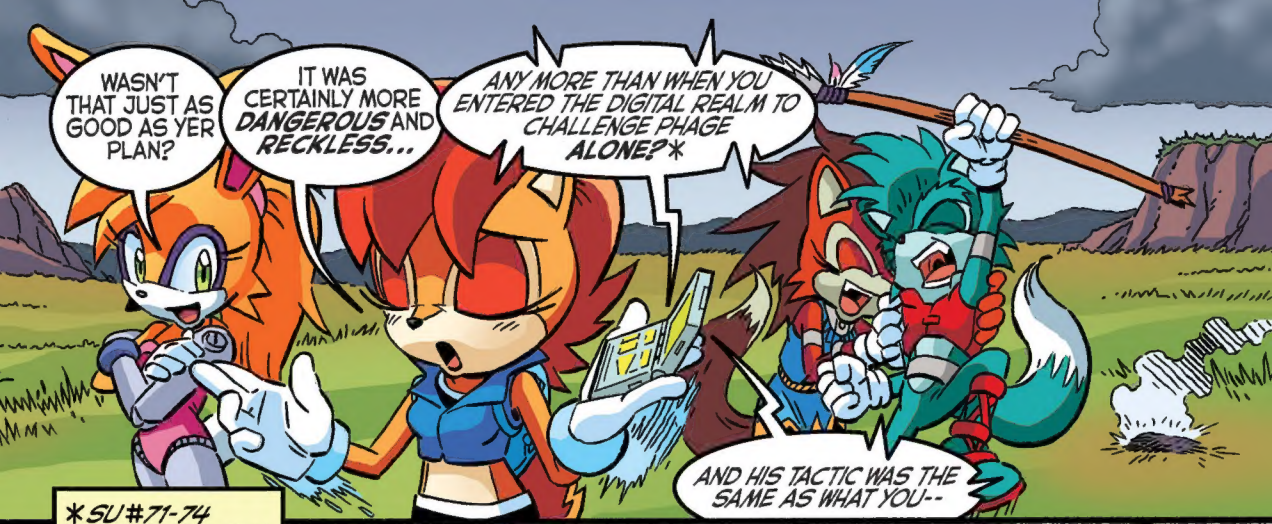


**SHAKOOM!**

**KRAKAKOOM!**



HAVE FUN WITH THAT!



WASN'T THAT JUST AS GOOD AS YER PLAN?

IT WAS CERTAINLY MORE DANGEROUS AND RECKLESS...

ANY MORE THAN WHEN YOU ENTERED THE DIGITAL REALM TO CHALLENGE PHAGE ALONE?\*

AND HIS TACTIC WAS THE SAME AS WHAT YOU--

\*SU#71-74 "SPARK OF LIFE."



≥AHEM.≤ WELL, I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THE RESULTS.

CLICK!



SALLY WON'T RISK ANYONE'S LIFE BUT HER OWN, NICOLE. ONE OF THESE DAYS, SHE'S GOTTA FIGURE OUT SHE AIN'T AN ACCEPTABLE CASUALTY, NEITHER.

DOUBLE-NEGATIVE, BUT I CONCUR.



HA HA! BRING BACK MEMORIES?

HAH, YES. BITTERSWEET ONES.

GOTTA THANK DR. ELLIDY FOR THESE RINGS. THEY CAME IN HANDY!

AND THANK YOU, LUPE!



OH, NO. SONIC AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WILL NEVER NEED TO THANK ME FOR ANYTHING.

HUH? YOU OWE THEM FOR SOMETHING?

MORE THAN I COULD EVER REPAY. IT WAS YEARS AGO...

"...WHEN I THOUGHT ALL WAS LOST..."



ARE YOU HURT? CAN YOU STAND? WE NEED TO GET YOU SOMEPLACE SAFE!

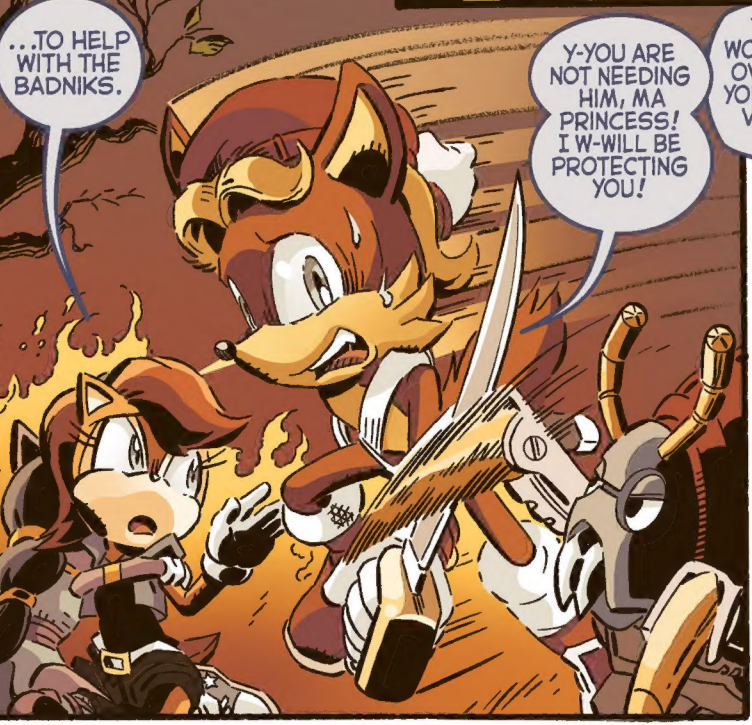


N-NO PLACE IS SAFE! E-EVERYTHING IS RUINED! AND F-FATHER--! M-M-MY FATHER...!



I SEE RO-BUTT-NIK! I'LL PUT A STOP TO THIS!

SONIC-- WAIT! I NEED YOU...



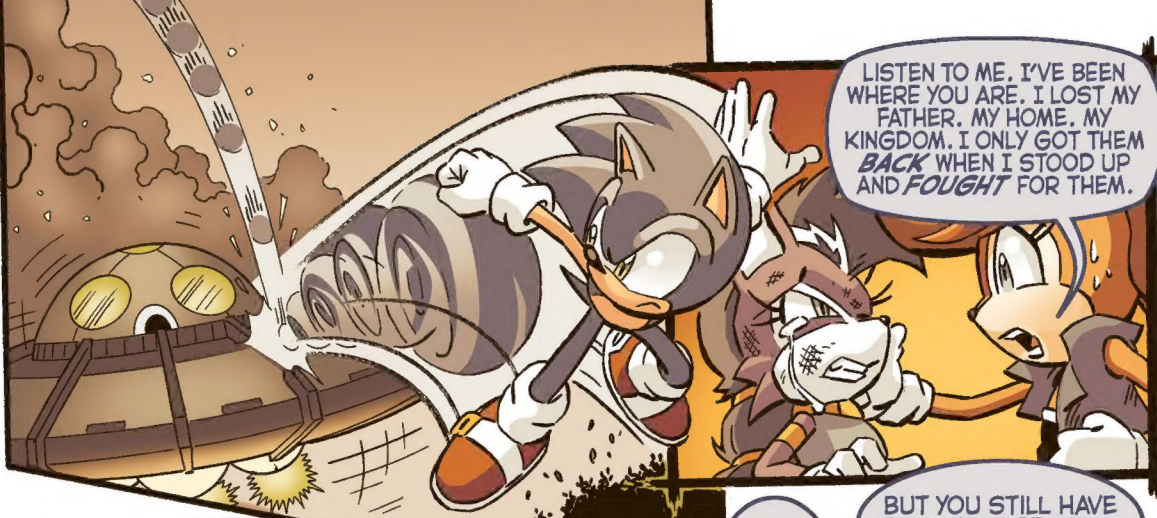
...TO HELP WITH THE BADNIKS.

Y-YOU ARE NOT NEEDING HIM, MA PRINCESS! I W-WILL BE PROTECTING YOU!

THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK. THE BADNIKS WILL OVERWHELM US. I NEED YOU AND THE VILLAGERS TO--

N-NO... I CAN'T...

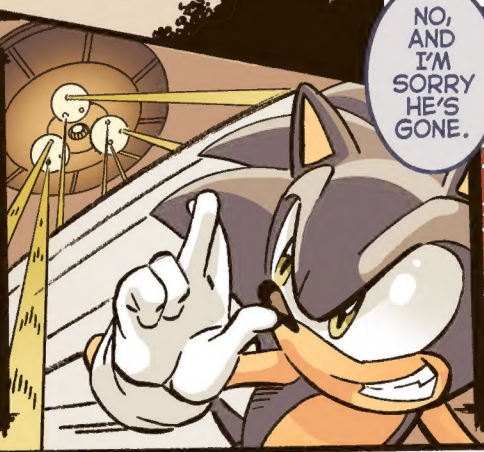




LISTEN TO ME. I'VE BEEN WHERE YOU ARE. I LOST MY FATHER. MY HOME. MY KINGDOM. I ONLY GOT THEM **BACK** WHEN I STOOD UP AND **FOUGHT** FOR THEM.



I WON'T **EVER** GET MY FATHER BACK!



NO, AND I'M SORRY HE'S GONE.



BUT YOU STILL HAVE YOUR VILLAGE. YOUR COMMUNITY.

AND IF YOU DON'T FIGHT FOR THEM **NOW**, YOU MAY **NEVER** GET THE CHANCE LATER.

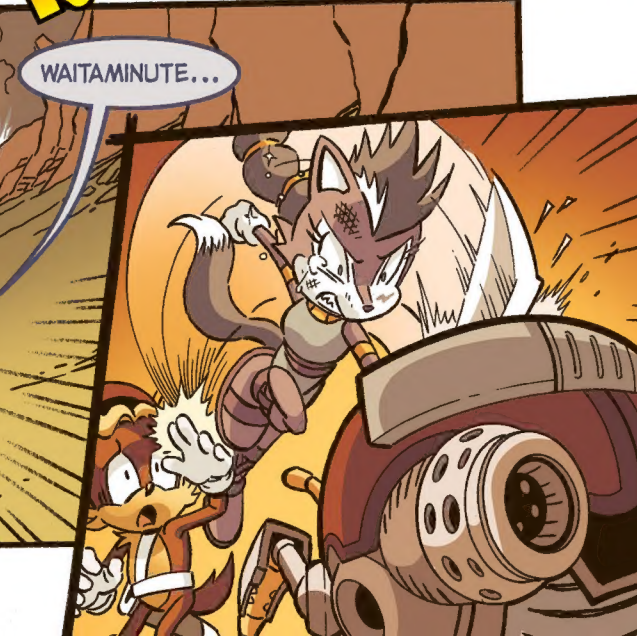


**YOW!** WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH THIS PLACE?!

**KABOOM!**



**KHA-RAK!**



WAITAMINUTE...



**KRAKA!**

ARRRGH!

I HATE YOU, HEDGE-HOG!

**BA-DOOM!**

RIGHT BACK AT'CHA, RO-BUTT-NIK!

STOP CALLING ME THAT!

HAVE IT YOUR WAY-- EGGMAN!

RRRGH!

**KOOM!**

HAHA! AWESOME!

ALL RIGHT--NOW WE NEED TO FIND THE OTHER VILLAGERS.

THERE'S... THERE'S A SHELTER WE GO TO DURING TORNADOS. MOST OF THEM WILL LIKELY HAVE GONE THERE TO HIDE...

EXCELLENT.

WE CAN DEFEND THAT POSITION.

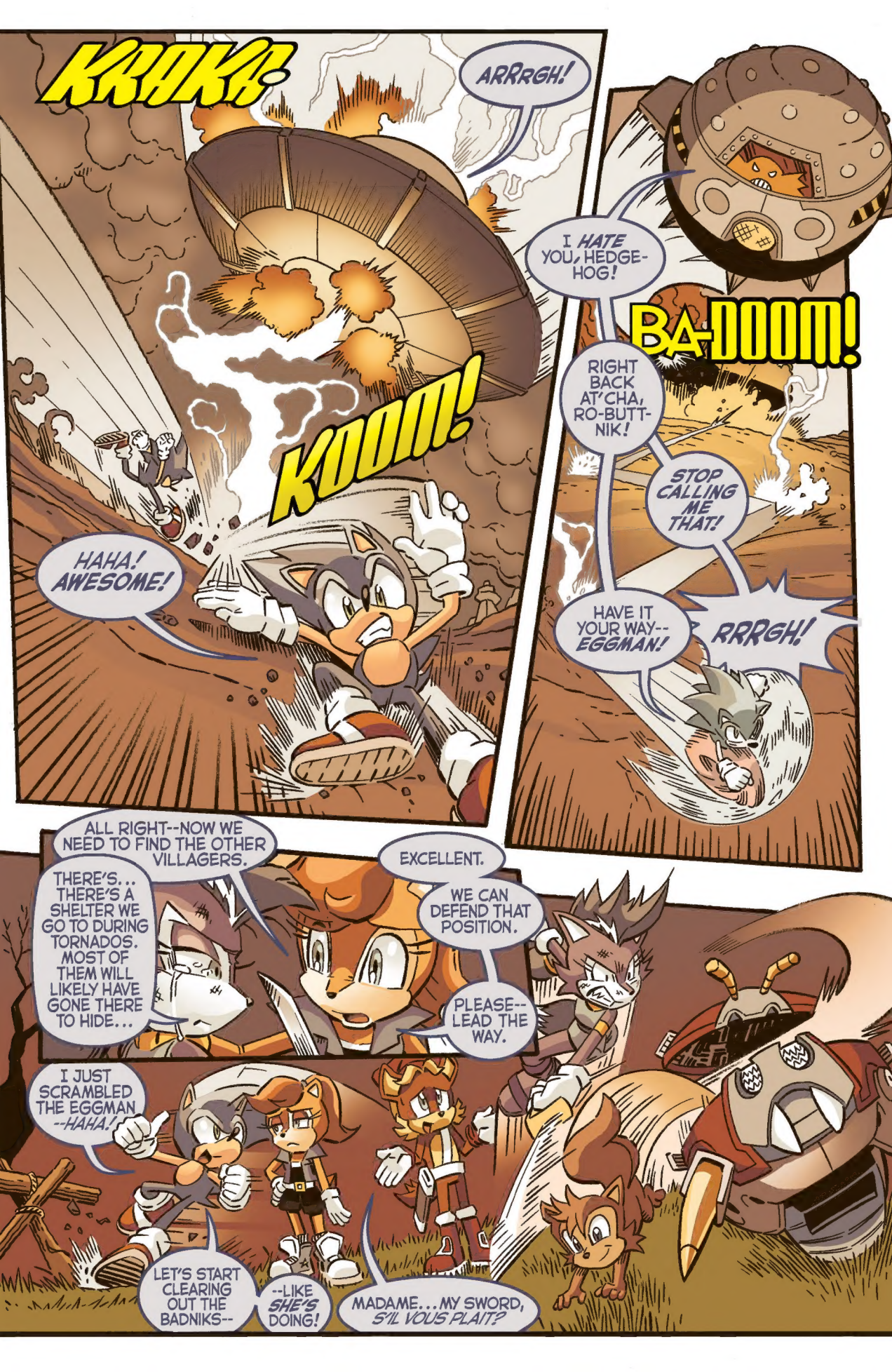
PLEASE--LEAD THE WAY.

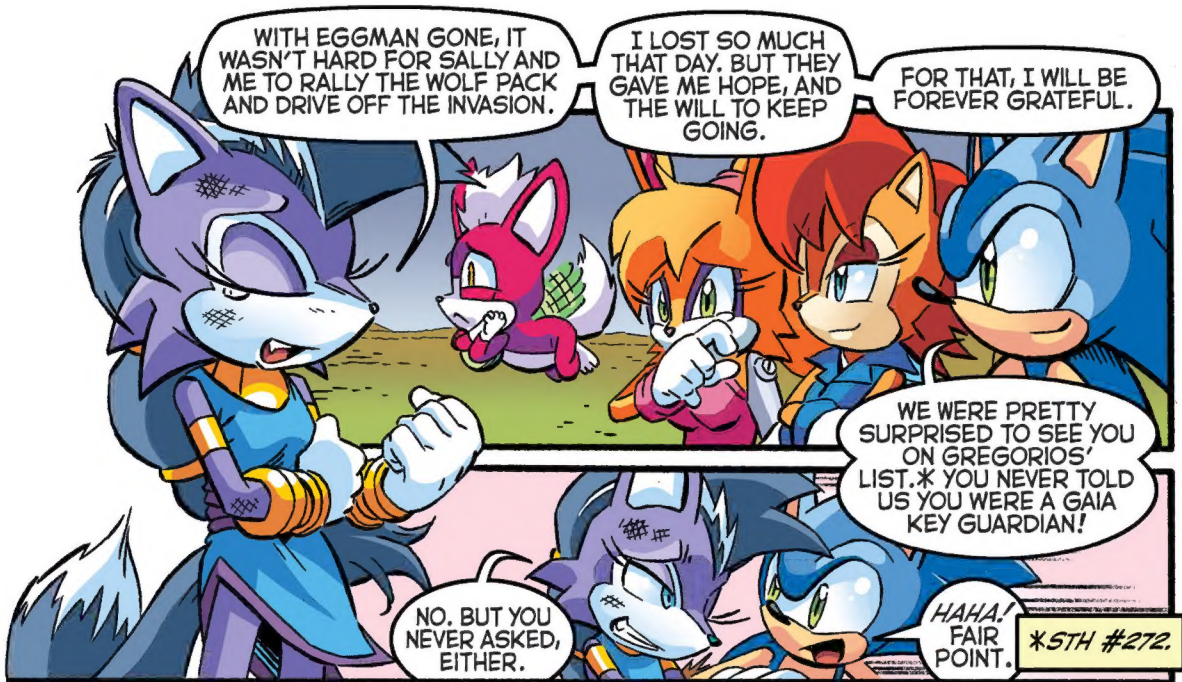
I JUST SCRAMBLED THE EGGMAN --HAHA!

LET'S START CLEARING OUT THE BADNIKS--

--LIKE SHE'S DOING!

MADAME... MY SWORD, S'IL VOUS PLAIT?





WITH EGGMAN GONE, IT WASN'T HARD FOR SALLY AND ME TO RALLY THE WOLF PACK AND DRIVE OFF THE INVASION.

I LOST SO MUCH THAT DAY. BUT THEY GAVE ME HOPE, AND THE WILL TO KEEP GOING.

FOR THAT, I WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL.

WE WERE PRETTY SURPRISED TO SEE YOU ON GREGORIOS' LIST.\* YOU NEVER TOLD US YOU WERE A GAIA KEY GUARDIAN!

NO. BUT YOU NEVER ASKED, EITHER.

HAHA! FAIR POINT.

\*5TH #272.



I'M JUST GLAD IT'S ONE LESS BATTLE FOR US TO FIGHT. EGGMAN DOESN'T DEPLOY HIS E-100 UNITS CASUALLY. I'M SURE THE REST OF THE EGG ARMY GARRISON AROUND THE GAIA TEMPLE IS FIERCE.



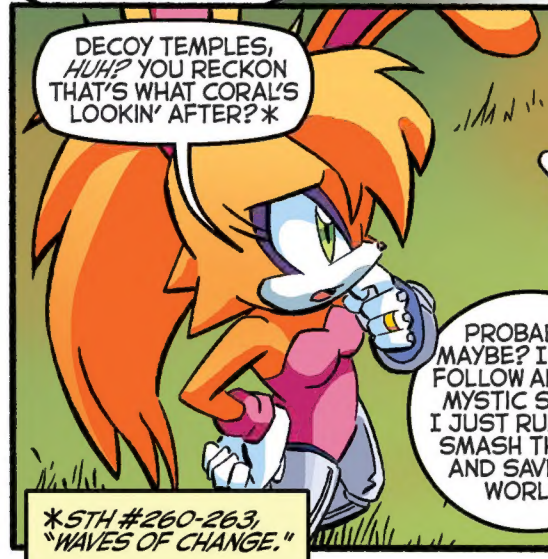
IT DOESN'T MATTER. THEY'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE.

...WHAT?

THE ANCIENTS WEREN'T FOOLS. THEY BUILT MANY DECOY TEMPLES. ONLY THE GUARDIANS KNOW THE TRUE LOCATIONS OF THE ONES THEY'RE SWORN TO PROTECT.



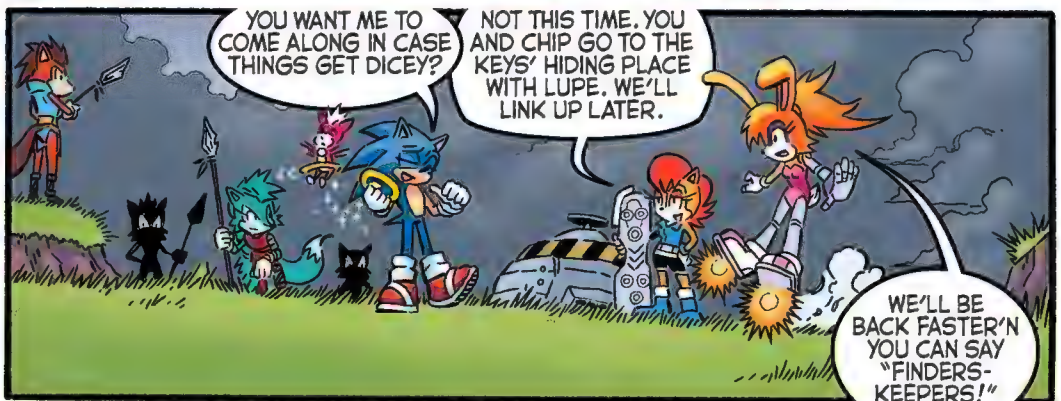
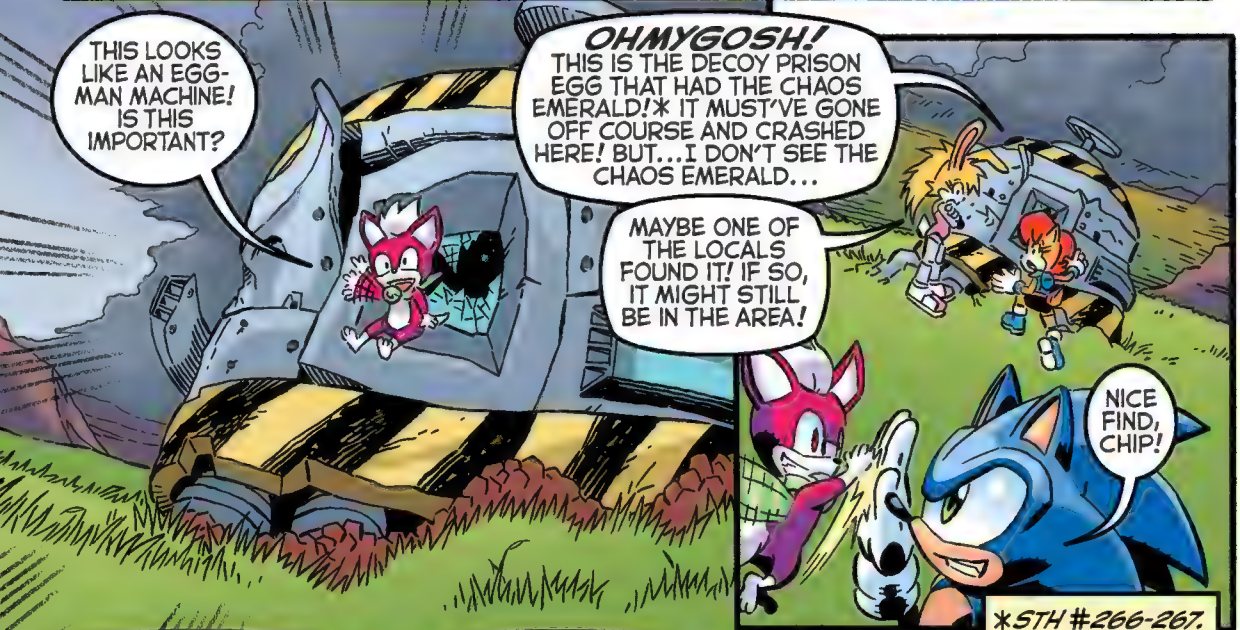
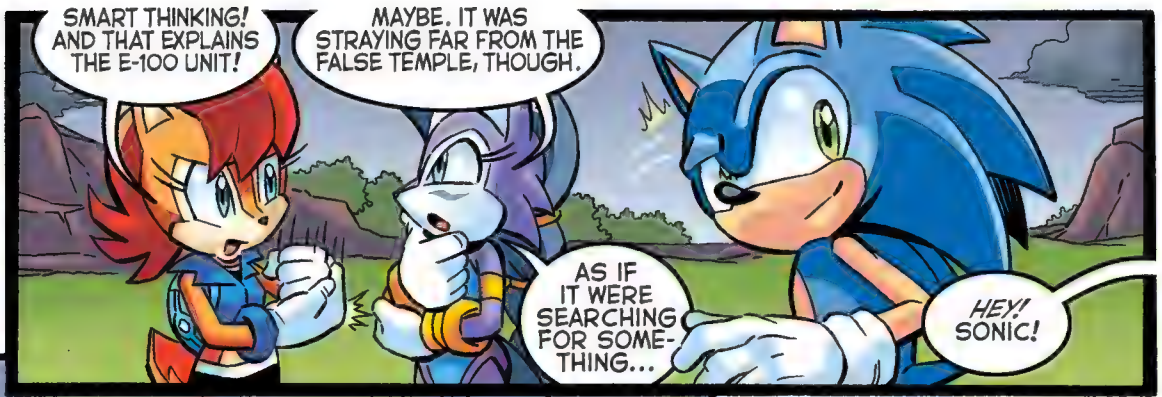
WITH THAT IN MIND, MY WOLF PACK HAS BEEN STAGING SMALL RAIDS TO MAKE EGGMAN THINK THE ONE HE'S CONTROLLING IS IMPORTANT.



DECOY TEMPLES, HUH? YOU RECKON THAT'S WHAT CORAL'S LOOKIN' AFTER?\*

PROBABLY? MAYBE? I DON'T FOLLOW ALL THIS MYSTIC STUFF. I JUST RUN FAST, SMASH THINGS AND SAVE THE WORLD.

\*5TH #260-263, "WAVES OF CHANGE."





COOL. SEE YOU SOON, LADIES! WE'LL HAVE THIS PLANET FIXED IN NO TIME!

**SALLY AND BUNNIE'S ADVENTURE CONTINUES NOW!**  
NEXT TIME, SONIC FINDS NEW FRIENDS AND FOES WHILE SEARCHING FOR THE GAIA KEYS!  
DON'T MISS OUT ON SONIC UNIVERSE EVERY MONTH, SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE AND SONIC SUPER DIGEST EVERY SEASON AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY ANYTIME!

STONE STORM-  
LANDS ZONE...

GUESS  
THAT'S THE  
EGG ARMY  
BASE.

# HIDDEN COSTS PART ONE

WRITER: ALEAH BAKER  
PENCILS: EVAN STANLEY  
INKS: TERRY AUSTIN  
COLORS: GABRIEL CASSATA  
LETTERS: JOHN WORKMAN

IF THEY HAVE THE  
CHAOS EMERALD IN THE  
TEMPLE, I DON'T KNOW  
IF WE'LL BE ABLE TO  
RETRIEVE IT BY OUR-  
SELVES...

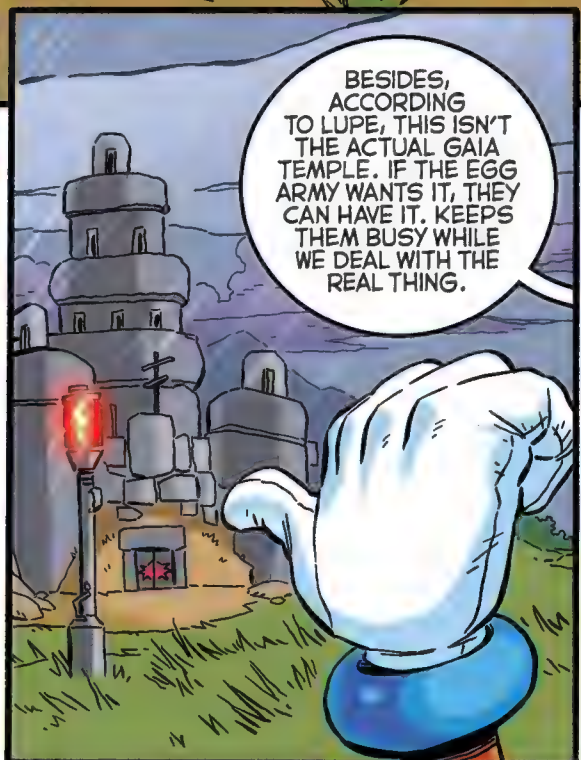


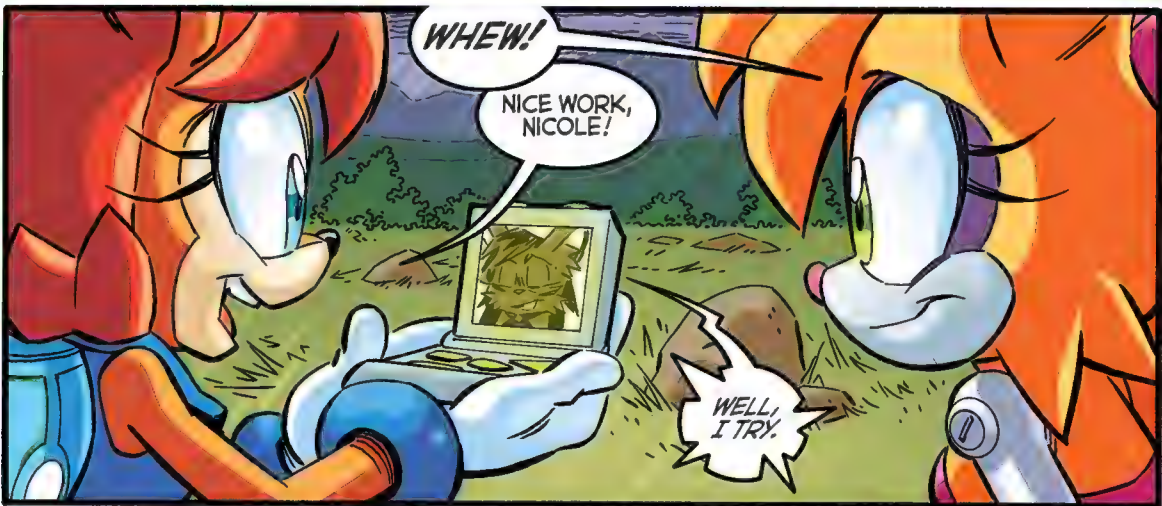
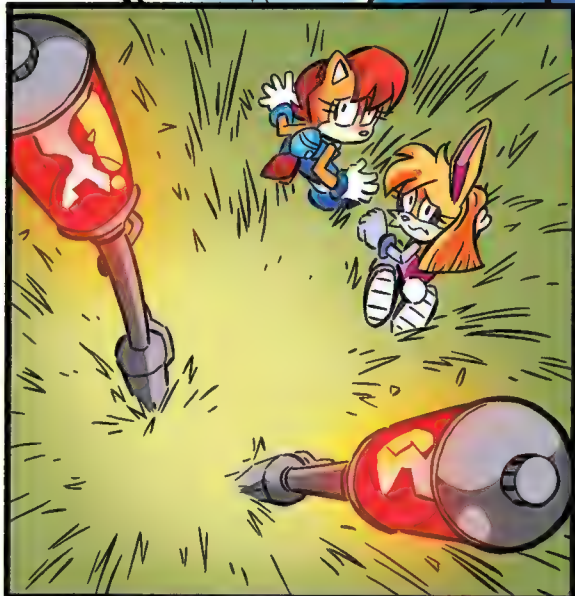
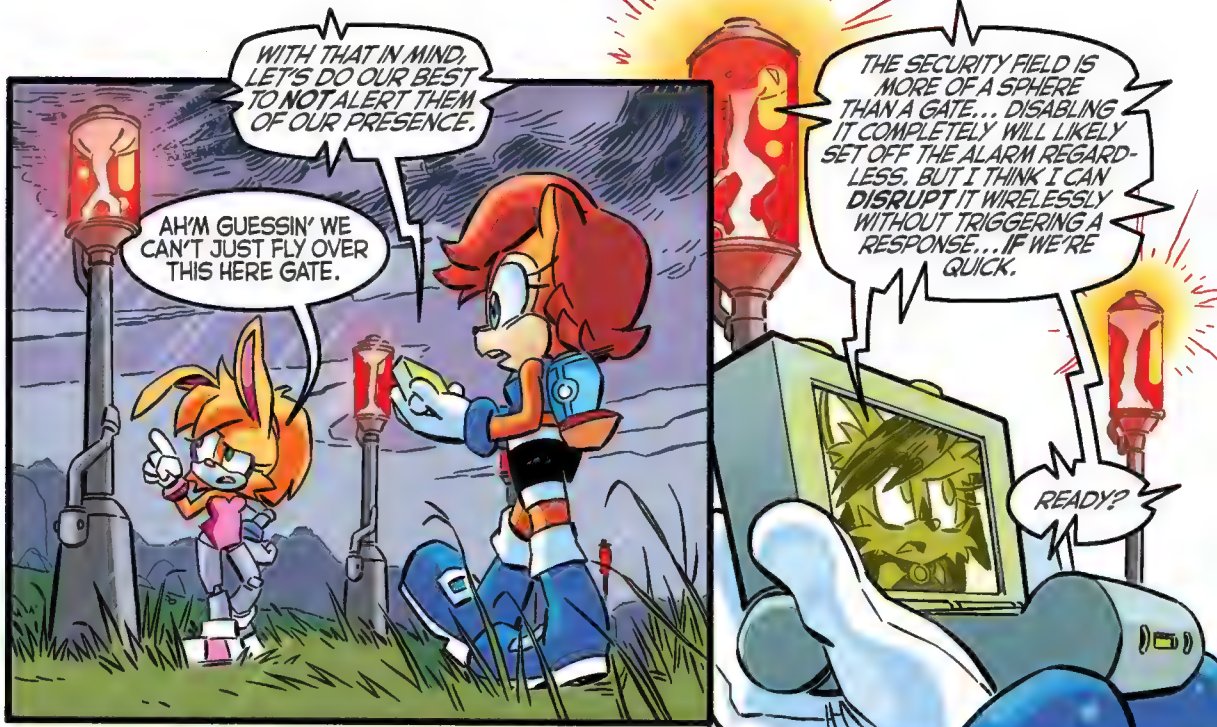
I DON'T THINK  
THAT E-100 UNIT  
WOULD HAVE BEEN  
DEPLOYED HAD THEY  
ALREADY FOUND THE  
EMERALD.

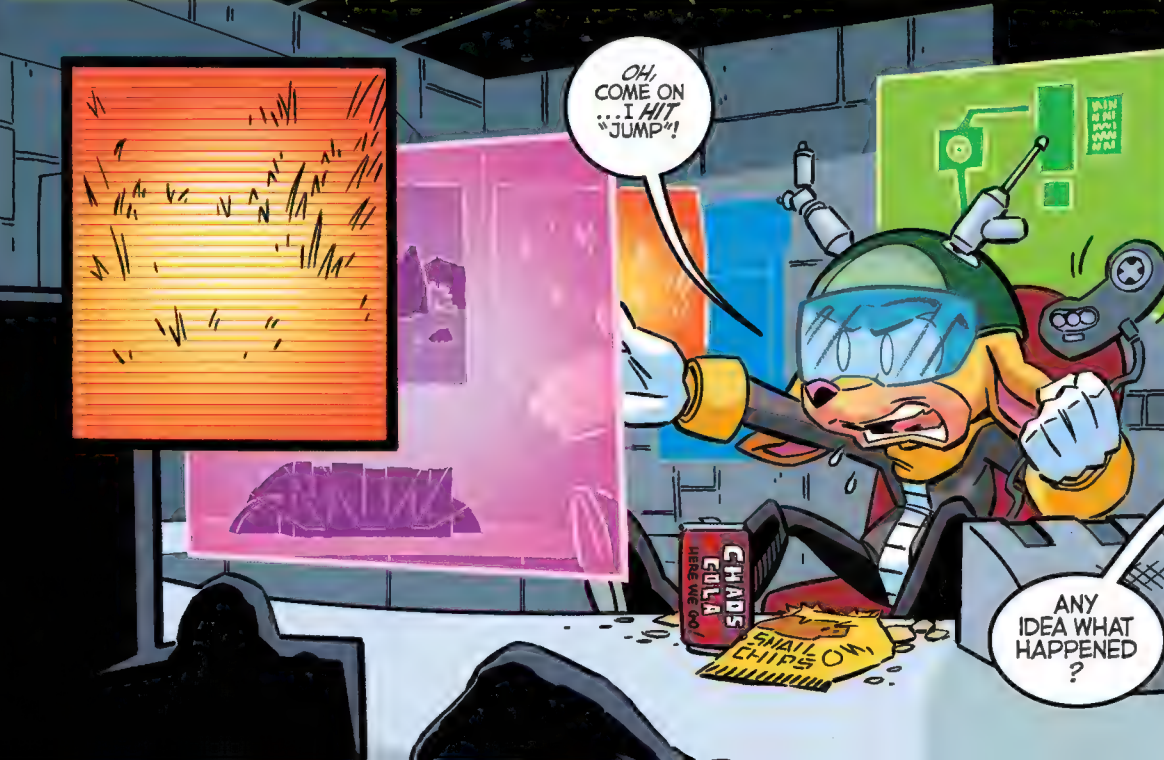
RIGHT... SO FOR  
THE TIME BEING,  
LET'S JUST SEARCH  
THE GROUNDS AND  
AVOID THE TEMPLE  
ITSELF.



BESIDES,  
ACCORDING  
TO LUPE, THIS ISN'T  
THE ACTUAL GAIA  
TEMPLE. IF THE EGG  
ARMY WANTS IT, THEY  
CAN HAVE IT. KEEPS  
THEM BUSY WHILE  
WE DEAL WITH THE  
REAL THING.









...LOOKS LIKE TAU WANDERED INTO THE THUNDER PLAINS ZONE AND GOT FRIED. STILL NOT SURE *WHY* IT WENT OFF COURSE LIKE THAT.

SHALL I--

...HUH.

CASSIA  
CO-EGG  
BOSS

EGG BOSS  
CLOVE  
REGIONAL EGG  
ARMY LEADER



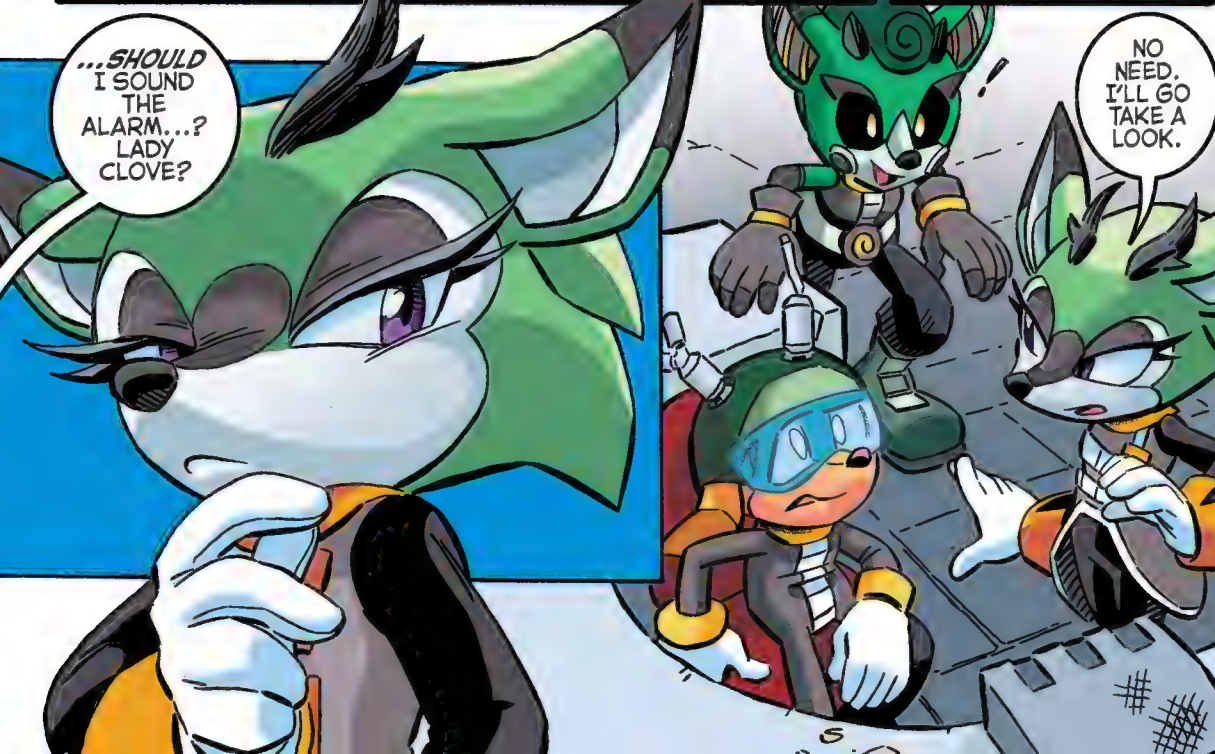
SOMETHING WRONG?

I...UH...THE SECURITY FIELD BLIPPED OUT. LIKE, IT TURNED OFF FOR A SECOND, BUT IT'S BACK ON NOW...

LAST TIME, YOU SAID, "IT'S PROBABLY JUST A FLICKY," AND IT WAS ACTUALLY SOME LOST IDIOT.

WELL. YEAH... BUT HE DIDN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING. I MEAN, IT WAS JUST FOR A SECOND... SO...

...IT'S PROBABLY JUST A GLITCH...

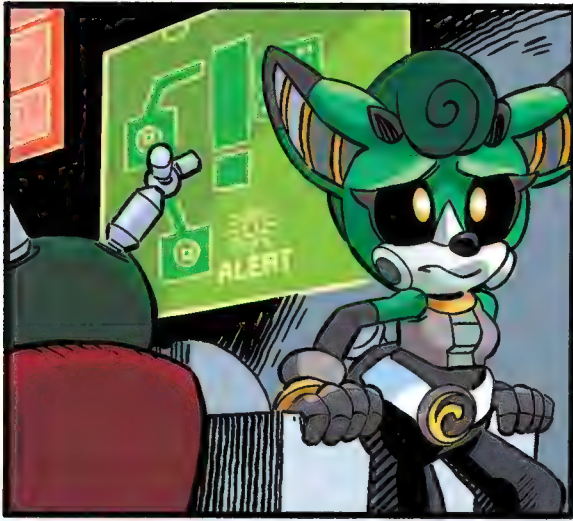


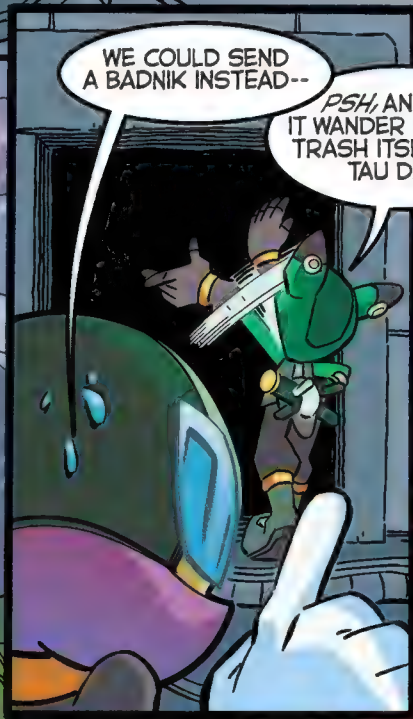
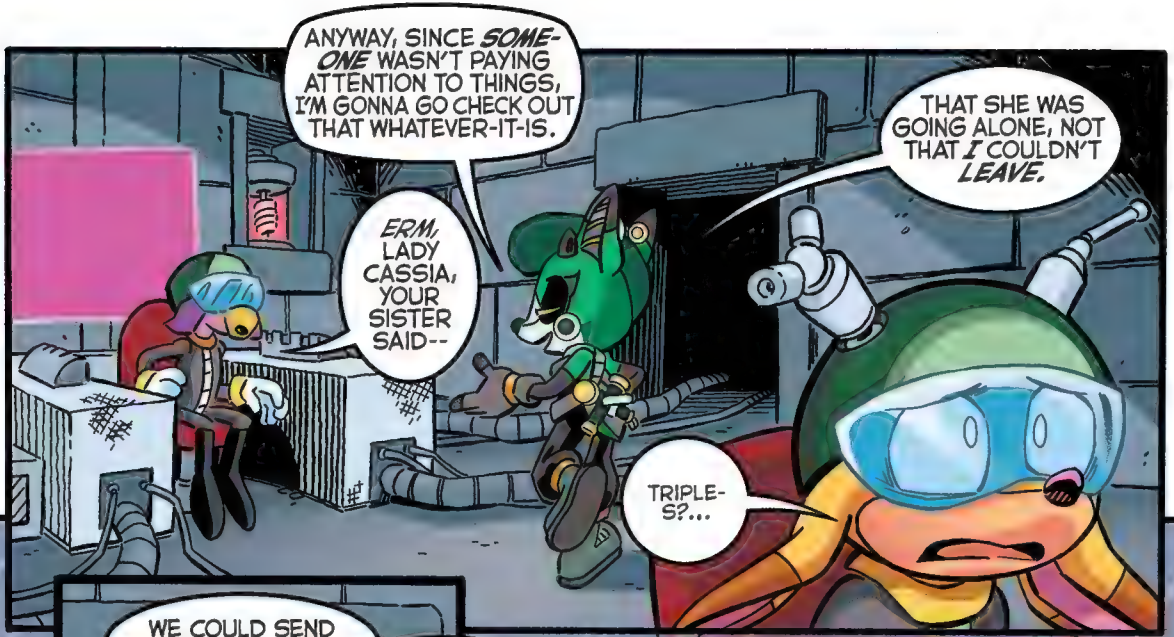
...SHOULD I SOUND THE ALARM...? LADY CLOVE?

NO NEED. I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK.









"IT'S NOT FAR THAT CLOVE GETS TO HAVE ALL THE FUN."



ELSEWHERE IN THE RUINS...

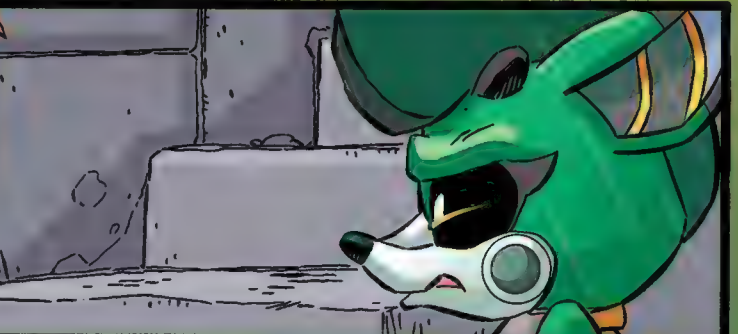
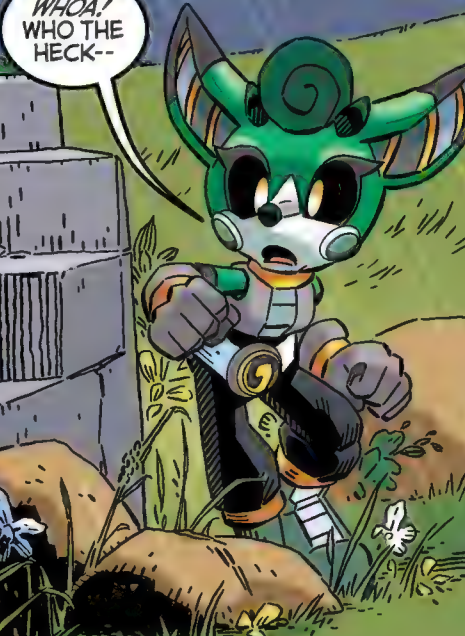
PLEASE BE THE CHAOS EMERALD...!

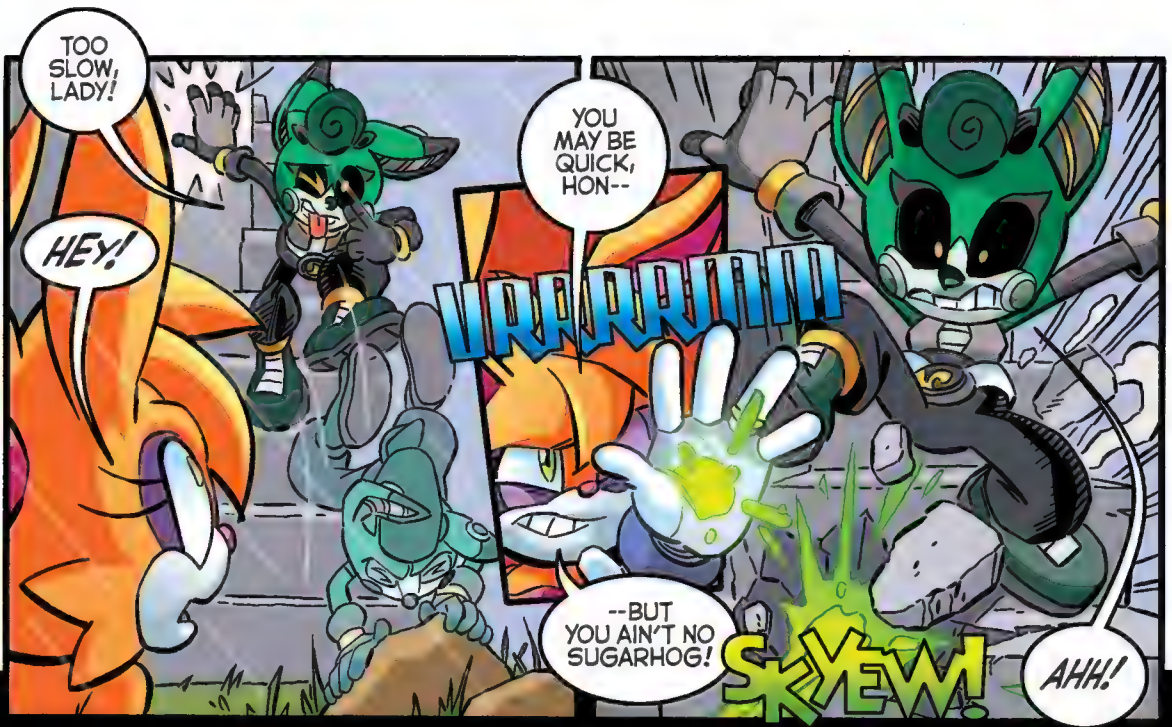
DID SOMEONE BRING IT HERE, THINKIN' IT WOULD SAVE THE WORLD...?

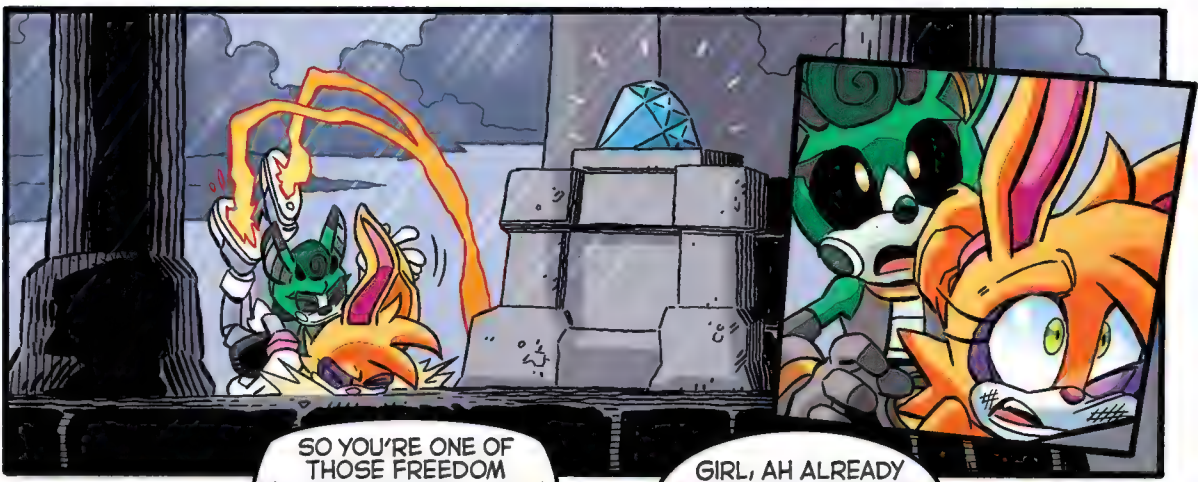


OH MAH STARS!

WHOA! WHO THE HECK--

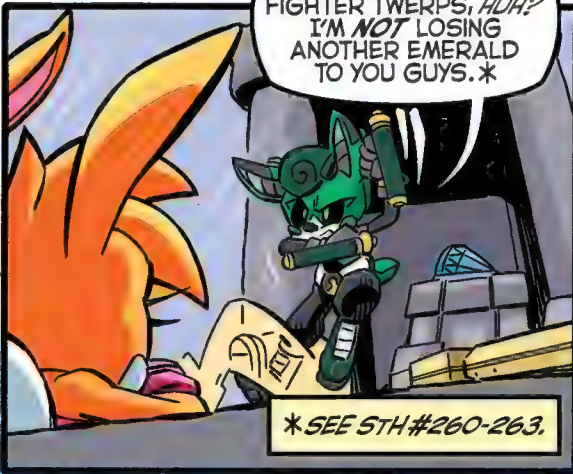




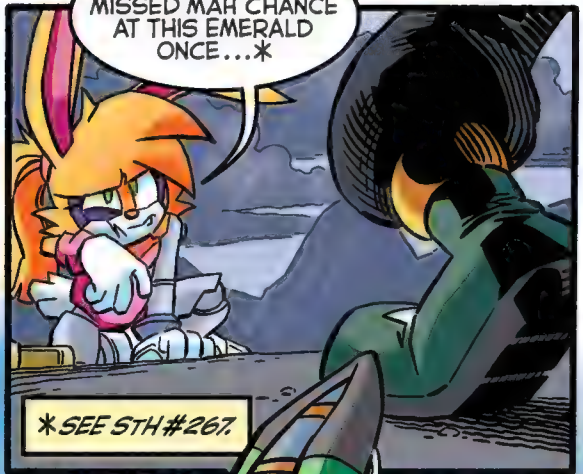


SO YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE FREEDOM FIGHTER TWERPS, HUH? I'M *NOT* LOSING ANOTHER EMERALD TO YOU GUYS. \*

GIRL, AH ALREADY MISSED MAH CHANCE AT THIS EMERALD ONCE...\*



\*SEE 5TH #260-263.



\*SEE 5TH #267.



... I AIN'T LETTIN' IT GO AGAIN!

**NEXT TIME: BUNNIE VS. CASSIA! BUT WHAT IS CLOVE AFTER...?**

# Letter from the EDITOR

Editorial commentary that's "wolf-packed" with excitement!

LUPE  
WARRIOR  
WOLF

BELOW: The final version of Lupe's new design by editor, Vincent Lovallo.



ABOVE: Several tweaks used to determine how Lupe's hair will look.

I'd also like to give a shout-out to the awesome **Aleah Baker** who wrote "Hidden Costs". This 3-part story features the return of the pronghorn deer sisters **Clove** and **Cassia** who first debuted in *Sonic the Hedgehog* #263. Fittingly, both that story and this one were written by Aleah and pencilled by **Evan Stanley**! Check out Evan's original illustration for Clove and Cassia!

Well that's all the behind-the-scenes stuff for now. Catch ya next time for more super Sonic fun!

- Vincent "Vin" Lovallo  
Editor

Vin  
2015

## Hey there, Sonic comic readers!

It's been a while since we've done a full fledged editorial column, so let's get right to it!

I hope you all enjoyed "Thunder, Rain and Lightning"! I was super stoked when Sonic comics mega-scribe **Ian Flynn** told me that **Lupe the Wolf** would make her return in this issue, with an updated look to boot!

Check out the reference images made by yours truly! Ian and I went through a few changes to her hair before getting her design down solid. I think Lupe looks pretty fierce, don't you? Many thanks to penciller **Adam Bryce Thomas**, who did a terrific job drawing both her and the wolf-pack!



ABOVE: Rough color models of Cassia and Clove, the sister pronghorns. Concepts by Aleah Baker and art by Evan Stanley.

# SONIC GRAMS

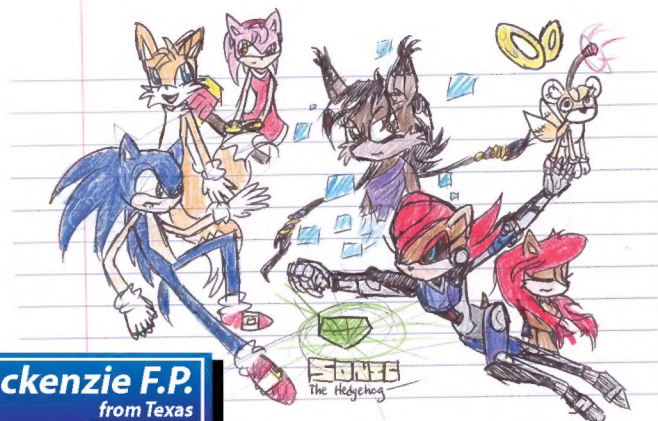
# FAN ART



Johanna A. sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



Helen R. sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



Mackenzie F.P.  
from Texas



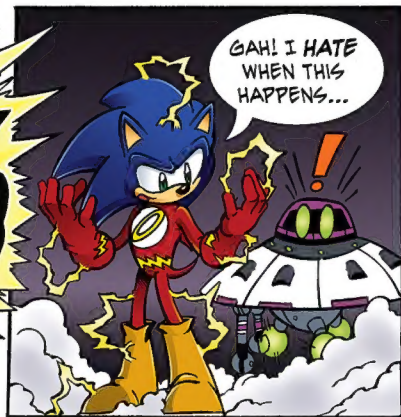
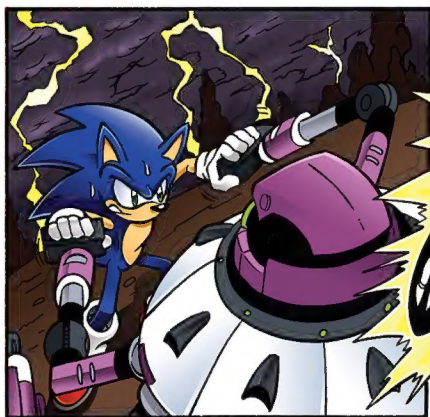
Rocio V. sent to  
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



## OFF-PANEL

## FLASHBANG BOOM

## OR CREASED LIGHTNING



GAH! I HATE WHEN THIS HAPPENS...





SEGA.COM - ARCHIECOMICS.COM

# SONIC GRAMS

WRITE TO US @: SONIC GRAMS C/O  
ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.  
629 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 100  
PELHAM, NY 10803-1242 E-MAIL:  
SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM  
OR TWEET AT US USING #SONICGRAMS!

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

Hi! My name is Grayson! I've loved your comic since 2008! It's an awesome series! Sonic the Hedgehog is my #1 hero! He saves the world with speed, awesomeness and care! He's my kinda guy!

*Hiya, Grayson! Sonic's a pretty cool dude, as far as dudes go, dude!*

I think the comics have changed A LOT since 2008! Personally, I love the new world more! Sally finally does combat! Sonic is better than ever! Amy gets to go on missions and isn't always crazy!

*We like to think the new universe strikes a good character balance! There's still much more to cover but we're getting there!*

1. Does Sonic have the greatest speed in the new world?

*Sonic's the fastest guy in any world! Superheroes, desert birds, mice in sombreros -- he's got 'em all beat!*

2. Can Sally or any of the Freedom Fighters turn super?

*With the power of all 7 Chaos Emeralds, Sonic, Shadow & Silver can go super. Blaze can use the power of the Sol Emeralds to turn into Burning Blaze. As for the rest of the cast, it's anyone's guess!*

3. When are Silver, Blaze and Shadow

showing up again?

*You can find Silver in the current pages of Sonic Universe! We hope you're digging "The Silver Age"! Shadow and Blaze haven't shown up yet, but they may turn up sooner than you think!*

Thank y'all for the work you do! Stay "way past cool!"

**Grayson B.**  
from Alabama

*Thank you for being an awesome fan!*

Dear 'Sonic Grams,'

I've had doubts about emailing you because I didn't think anyone would listen, but I want to contact you about the many new changes in the Sonic comics.

*We can't always answer everyone but we do read every letter and we certainly care about every fan, be they new fans or old fans!*

1. I know Robotnik's name is Eggman and Japan has called him that since his creation, but I knew Sonic's archenemy as Robotnik ever since I saw the cartoons. Everything he does suits his 'Robotnik' name better. I can't take 'Eggman' seriously. It was better off as a name to mock him with, along with Ro'butt'nik and other funny names. Can you change his name back, please?

*"Robotnik" as a name pops up every now and then even in the games (we*

*haven't forgotten it!) But he is usually referred to as Dr. Eggman. We want to stick with that, but use both names for funny insults issued by Sonic.*

2. Robotnik's the only villain that Sonic has to deal with. Can't you use other villains?

*Well don't forget, there's Nack and the Hooligans, Breezeie & the S-6 Squad, Eclipse, Dr. Snively, all the new Egg Bosses and Naugus is back as of last issue... with a sister!?!? Don't worry about newer villains. We've got that covered!*

3. I'm a HUGE fan of Sonic and Sally being together so I'm bugged because Amy gets more attention than Sally and I don't like that. I want Sally to be involved with Sonic. Can you make them a couple again?

*Sally's more concerned with leading her friends against the tyranny of Eggman than a love life, plus she's good friends with Amy and her dynamic with Sonic is still there even if it's not romantically linked.*

Thank you for reading. I hope you can answer soon.

**Ian M.** sent to  
SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

*Thank you for your feedback, Ian!*

*We'll see y'all next issue!*

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